

Birthplace of John Adams  
Quincy, Massachusetts  
Norfolk Co

HABS No. MASS-596

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to:

John Adams Birthplace  
133 Franklin Street  
Quincy  
Norfolk County  
Massachusetts  
(first recorded in 1941)

HABS No. MA-596

HABS  
MASS,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MASSACHUSETTS	COUNTY NORFOLK	TOWN OR VICINITY QUINCY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) ADAMS, JOHN, BIRTHPLACE		HABS NO. MA-596
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 133 Franklin Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Ca. 1681, with later additions	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This house was the original homestead of the Adams family and the birthplace of John Adams. The original portion of the house exhibits typical New England saltbox architecture.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) New England saltbox		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The foundation is granite fieldstone, laid from successive construction periods. The walls of the main house were filled originally with a brick (continued on p. 2)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular main house, with lean-to and porch addition. Measures 41'-8" X 42'-5".		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The front frontispiece features a pedimented and pilastered surround. Some original roof sheathing is visible. The present sheathing is asphalt. White fascia boards flank gable slope.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See accompanying HABS drawings for floor plans. The main stair is a winder type. The lean-to attic features the remains of two stairways to the first floor, but both have been closed off. There are two stairways from the first floor to the cellar. There are two sets of stairs to the attic as well. The flooring is wood tapered boards. (con'd. on page 2)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES A modern storm porch has been added to the west of the lean-to. The lesser exterior doors are replacements. Most of the windows are replacements having a Federal muntin profile. A major restoration was done in 1897.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Museum, operated by the National Park Service.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This house is one of the five structures recorded in the 1979 Lowell project, which was co-sponsored by HABS, the North Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service and the Adams National Historic Site. Peter G. Darlow served as the project supervisor.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Historic American Buildings Survey Summer Team, 1979; Susan McCown, editor, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983		DATE

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (continued from page 1):

nogging and clay mortar. The brick and mortar were removed during the 1897 restoration. The walls are constructed with wood studs. The house is covered with clapboards painted red.

The house has a purlin system roof, which was raised on the north elevation to accommodate the lean-to and altered further by a gabled addition off the lean-to. The earlier gabled portion is still intact. The gable rafters appear to have been pit sawn, whereas the lean-to rafters were hand-hewn. Post-and-Beam construction is dominated by summer beams, girts and cornerposts.

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

The small lean-to room has a modern hardwood floor. The lean-to kitchen has a modern linoleum floor.

All walls and ceilings are plastered. Wallpaper covers all the first floor rooms, with the exception of the lean-to kitchen and bathroom. The second floor rooms are wallpapered as well. The wallpapering is not historic.

Several board-and-batten doors are still in use.

The cornerposts and girts where they are exposed exhibit a chamfered edge with lamb's tongue stops. The first floor, southwest room's summer beams, cornerposts and girt are encased exhibiting a beaded edge. Paneled mantelpieces grace the second floor chambers and the first floor parlor.